



SHERMAN BLOCK, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



February 25, 1994

California Highway Patrol  
Hazardous Material Section  
Post Office Box 942898  
Sacramento, California 94298-0001

Attention: Routing and Prenotification Unit

Gentlemen:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Operations Bureau, has reviewed the proposed Title 13, California Highway Patrol Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action, dated January 1994, relative to the Designation of Routes for the Through Transportation of Highway Route Controlled Quality Shipments of Radioactive Materials (HMS-94-01).

We note that the proposal identifies the United States Department of Transportation as the agency responsible for establishing the requirements for the transportation of Controlled Quantity Shipments of Radioactive Materials, and that the proposal charges the California Highway Patrol with the responsibility for identifying the specific routes of travel.

According to the proposal, some shipments will have a California Highway Patrol escort, however, the California Highway Patrol will not be routinely notified in all cases of transportation by the shipper. The California Highway Patrol is not required to make notifications to any law enforcement agency within whose area the shipment traverses.

While the proposal indicates that the shipments will be contained in Class "B" containers, which have the highest safety standards, none have been subjected to tons of falling concrete from a freeway overpass during an earthquake.

*A Tradition of Service*

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Any such accident involving one of these containers could have catastrophic results, particularly in a case where the local law enforcement agency has not been notified of the shipment.

We recommend that the currently mandated procedure for the shipment of rocket fuel throughout the state be implemented for the transportation of Controlled Quantity Shipments of Radioactive Materials.

This procedure, pursuant to 32050 of the California Vehicle Code, requires notification of shipments via CLETS to all Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, who in turn are responsible for notifying all Fire Chiefs within their respective jurisdictions through a mutually agreed upon communications system.

This procedure identifies:

- The shipper
- The manufacturer
- The materials transported
- The destination
- When the rocket fuel will enter the state
- The route

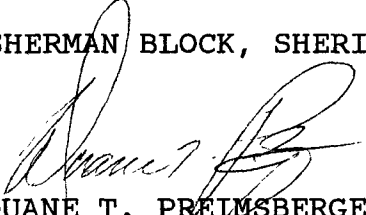
This procedure allows law enforcement and fire agencies along the route of transportation to be aware of highly dangerous materials moving through their areas of jurisdiction.

Any questions regarding this recommendation should be directed to Lieutenant Richard Odenthal, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Operations Bureau, 11515 S. Colima Road, Room #M-106, Whittier, California, 90604, (310) 946-7919.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

SHERMAN BLOCK, SHERIFF



DUANE T. PREMSBERGER  
ASSISTANT SHERIFF